

Lazio
Lofgren
McCollum
McIntosh
Meeks (NY)
Owens

Roukema
Serrano
Souder
Sweeney
Towns
Velazquez

Vento
Watkins
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weygand
Wise

□ 1921

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4205, FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7c of rule XXII, I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4205 tomorrow. The form of the motion is as follows:

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4205 be instructed to agree to the provisions contained in title 15 of the Senate amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the remaining motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

RECOGNITION FOR SLAVE LABORERS WHO WORKED ON CONSTRUCTION OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 368) establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 368

Whereas the United States Capitol stands as a symbol of democracy, equality, and freedom to the entire world;

Whereas the year 2000 marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of this historic structure for the first session of Congress to be held in the new Capital City;

Whereas slavery was not prohibited throughout the United States until the ratification of the 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1865;

Whereas previous to that date, African American slave labor was both legal and

common in the District of Columbia and the adjoining States of Maryland and Virginia;

Whereas public records attest to the fact that African American slave labor was used in the construction of the United States Capitol;

Whereas public records further attest to the fact that the five-dollar-per-month payment for that African American slave labor was made directly to slave owners and not to the laborer; and

Whereas African Americans made significant contributions and fought bravely for freedom during the American Revolutionary War: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall establish a special task force to study the history and contributions of these slave laborers in the construction of the United States Capitol; and

(2) such special task force shall recommend to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate an appropriate recognition for these slave laborers which could be displayed in a prominent location in the United States Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to compliment and congratulate the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), my friend and my conference chairman; and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), my friend and colleague on the Committee on Ways and Means; one, for the way in which this legislation has been put together; and, two, the time in which we have moved.

It has now become better known that several months ago a local television reporter unearthed some United States Treasury Department pay slips that, strange as it may seem, allows us to have a better understanding of what went on in the early stages of the building of our Capitol. One would think that we would have as complete a documentation as any people could have.

And yet what we found out was that those pay slips showed that there were slave owners who were paid for work in the building of the United States Capitol. Pretty obviously, the labor was not done by the slave owners. In fact, it was slaves that did the work, more than 400, which gives us an even more appropriate reason for recognizing the importance of this particular building, and a continued understanding of the true and honest history of the United States.

The resolution would create a task force to study the history and contributions of those slave laborers. There has been some concern that the legislation is not real specific about the way in which this task force would be appointed, other than, according to the resolution, to have the Speaker of

the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate make the appointments. I would hope everyone understands that this is not to be a political task force. It is not to be some kind of political endeavor to make sure one is politically correct.

The reason we wanted to have the task force was to reach out to those very appropriate professionals who would have knowledge and understanding to assist us in creating whatever the appropriate recognition might be, and we do not want to prejudge what will be presented to us, so that in a prominent location in the Capitol we can, one, give proper credit; two, recognize the fact that it occurred but, more importantly, understand better this particular building and the very human involvement in now yet another dimension not fully appreciated in the creation of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is an appropriate and, at the same time, regrettable fact that I rise today in support of this resolution. It is appropriate because I am proud to join my colleagues in an attempt to recognize a terrible wrong, to shed light on a dark chapter in our Nation's history. Sad, because it is a shame that this resolution is even necessary. However, it is necessary; and I commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), my colleagues, for their hard work in bringing this resolution to the floor.

This resolution, as the chairman has pointed out, will establish a task force to recommend an appropriate recognition of the slave laborers who built the United States Capitol. Not all of the workers were slaves. There were free men that worked by their side; but there were slaves who, as the chairman has pointed out, were not paid for their work; their owners were paid for their work. And their work helped build this Capitol.

That sentence should shock all of our sensibilities. Yes, this temple of liberty was built, in part, on the backs of slave laborers.

□ 1930

That is a tragedy, and was a denial of the statement we made to all the world that we believed that all men were created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.

Notwithstanding the fact that we published that to the world, we continued slavery in America. Yes, we used slaves in part to build this Capitol. Those workers toiled in the hot D.C. summers to build this monument to freedom, the people's House, the freedom they did not have. Yet, they did not share in the promise of America. There was compensation, as has been pointed out: \$5 a month to the owners.

This tragic piece of our Nation's history needs to be explored and exposed.

We often forget the proud history of slaves in the United States. The government denied them their freedom, but nobody could take away their dignity. They fought bravely in the Revolutionary War to secure our Nation's freedom, yet they were not free. After that noble effort, they worked to build a tribute to this Nation's ideals, this Capitol building, but they were denied the very freedom it symbolized.

As a recent article in the Washington Post explains, little is known about the slaves. We know that for a time Phillip Reid, the only slave that we know the last name of, served as superintendent of the project, but the other slaves are known only by first names jotted in dusty ledgers.

I hope this task force is able to uncover more details about these men who did backbreaking work for a nation that denied them their fundamental rights. We need to know more about George, Thomas, Harry, and Jerry, and all the others who built this temple to democracy and freedom. Without knowing more about their history, Mr. Speaker, our collective history, our Nation's history, will be forever incomplete.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), mentioned that we do know for sure one of the slave's names, a fellow by the name of Phillip Reed. Talk about irony upon irony, he, given his professional capabilities, helped cast the bronze statue atop our Capitol that was recently refurbished, and of course we know that as the Statue of Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the rest of the time be controlled by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), chairman of the Republican Conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Concurrent Resolution 368, legislation that I introduced earlier this year and that I believed to be long overdue in highlighting a disturbing but important fact about the history of this magnificent building and symbol of freedom, the United States Capitol.

I want to especially thank my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), for joining in this effort as the bill's original cosponsor, and I want to thank the chairman of the committee on House Administration, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), for their support of this critically important recognition of the

slave laborers who built this extraordinary structure that houses the deliberations of the oldest democracy on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, every day we are here in session our debates and legislative activities underscore that this is a living building that embodies America's greatest principles of democracy and liberty. However, one significant historical fact about this building is often forgotten. That fact is that much of the construction of this Capitol in the 18th and 19th centuries was done by slave labor.

As we all know, slavery was not eliminated across the United States until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865. Before that date, slave labor was both legal and common throughout the South, including the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Public records attest to the historical fact that African-American slave labor was used in the construction of the United States Capitol, both here on this site and further south, in the Virginia quarries that provided the marble for this very building.

It is time we recognize the contributions of these slave laborers. I am proud we will have the opportunity today to do so by passing this resolution to establish a special congressional task force which will study the history of this period and recommend an appropriate memorial to the labors of these great Americans to be displayed prominently here in our Nation's Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, this year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first session of Congress to be held here in this historic building. I think that is a long enough time to go without a public and visible acknowledgment of the incongruous but important historical fact that the blood, sweat, and tears of African-American slave laborers built this House for us all.

Let us reach back today through the thin veil of time and unshackle their hands so we can shake them and say, thank you, ever so belatedly, to these great Americans who built this great monument to freedom.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is my real honor to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), a distinguished civil rights leader, Member of Congress, humanitarian, and the cosponsor of this legislation. A gentleman who has been a giant in bringing the reality of the words that I intoned earlier that are included in our Declaration of Independence, and the promises incorporated in our Constitution, to reality for all Americans.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), for bringing this legislation before us today.

I want to thank my friend and my colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), for being the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, when we walk through the halls of this building, we do not see anything that tells the story that African-American slaves helped build this magnificent building: no drawings, no murals, no paintings, no statues, nothing. Slavery is part of our Nation's history of which we are not proud. However, we should not run away or hide from it. The history of the Capitol, like the history of our Nation, should be complete.

As the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) pointed out, it was not until this year, 200 years after the opening of the Capitol for the first session of Congress, that records were uncovered which prove what many of us have already known or maybe some of us assumed, that African-American slave labor was used in the building of the United States Capitol.

These men, these slaves, laid the very foundation of our democracy. Yet, they were denied the right to participate in our democracy. Indeed, generations of their offspring were denied the right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, with this resolution, H.R. 368, we will honor the slaves who helped build the Capitol. We will study the history and contributions of the African-Americans who helped construct one of the greatest symbols of democracy in the world, this building, the United States Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, we will have a fitting and lasting tribute to these men, black men, slaves, in a permanent place here in the United States Capitol.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 368.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution. It is interesting, the first day I was here I stood over by the painting of Lafayette. This room was empty, and I was there with a radio reporter from my town. Unbeknownst to myself, I was violating the rules of the House when I conversed and they were recording the tape.

But the point of that conversation was that if one was quiet enough in this Chamber, one could hear the voices of the people who have come before us, and yes, those who built this place came before us, the slaves that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) talked about, those who have built this country that we have not to date given satisfactory recognition to.

This resolution is a first step. I thank the gentleman for bringing it. I am grateful for the opportunity to support it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend and congratulate the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) for their introduction to a very important piece of legislation.

As a matter of fact, it is my hope and my understanding, as well as my desire, that passage of this legislation will help shed additional light on an extreme dark period in the history of this Nation, because as we look back to better understand where we came from, it helps us to recognize how we got to where we are, and then helps propel us into the future in relationship to where we need to be going.

Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Month, African-American History Month, once said that while we should not underestimate the achievements of our Nation's greatest architects, builders, and industrialists, we should give credit to those slaves who so largely supplied the demand for labor.

This resolution will do just that, and I would hope that as historians write, that in the near future we will see in the history books in every classroom throughout this great Nation the contributions of those whose sweat, whose hard labor, whose intense drive helped to produce not only a magnificent edifice, but helped to provide an opportunity for democracy to grow and flourish.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this proposal. Americans understand that our black brothers and sisters in this country have been given a raw deal over our country's history, but most Americans do not know exactly what a raw deal it has been and was.

The fact is that black Americans and their achievements quite often have been written out of the history books. I love to read history, and I have seen that in so many cases where black Americans, they pop up here and there, but the average American has no idea that they have done such tremendous things. Just like today, we are giving credit for people who have built this altar of liberty, this altar of freedom for all America to see, and there were black Americans, and to this point very few people knew there were black Americans.

Let us remember that one of the first Americans to be killed during the American Revolution, a man killed during the Boston Massacre which sparked the whole American Revolution, was a black American.

In the last 4 or 5 years I fought a fight for patent reform here in the United States, and I had to study the issue of inventors and people who actually invented great things in our country.

Certainly every American knows about Booker T. Washington. But as I

studied the history of our patent system and the inventors in our country, I was personally surprised to see how many great inventions were invented by black Americans, because patent rights as a property right, even during a time of great discrimination against our fellow Americans, the patent rights were actually provided to black Americans. They excelled in creativity, in creating new machines and new technologies throughout our history.

□ 1945

Not many people know that. Not many people know of the great many American heroes, not only during the Civil War, but other conflicts.

But today we have the opportunity to congratulate those Americans who, again, not many of us heard of before, but did a great service to their country and to the cause of freedom in building this great edifice. So I support the legislation and thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) very much for letting me participate in this debate.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the very distinguished Representative in which this Capitol is located. I am sure the irony is not lost on her that there are residents of this capital of freedom that do not have full voting participation in this Capitol.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I very much thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate enormously the work of the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), ranking member, in working together to bring this matter forward. I am enormously grateful, of course, to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), my long-time friend and colleague from the civil rights movement, for their leadership in bringing forward the bill that brings us to the floor today.

I want to recognize the work of a local reporter for Channel 4 News here, Edward Hotaling, who brought this matter to public attention and was responsible for our bringing it, therefore, today to public light, for what we are doing this evening is opening the eyes of America to an important discovery for most in American history.

We know the cliché because we have said it over and over, the slaves helped build America. But there are seldom any specifics to that. What slaves? What part of America? It turns out that the oldest and most treasured parts of America, the most hallowed places are what we are talking about; the White House, yes, and this very place where we meet.

What is true here is probably true for every historic public building south of the Mason-Dixon line. We celebrate the slaves who built the Capitol and the White House, but the same could be said throughout the American South

and much of the American North if the building is old enough.

It is a matter of public record that slaves and free blacks built these two buildings. But it is also true that much of the District of Columbia was built by slaves and free blacks.

My own great grandfather, Richard Holmes, was one such slave. Richard Holmes walked away from slavery in Virginia, got hired before the Civil War to work in the streets of the District of Columbia, got discovered by his white owner who was refused ownership when my great grandfather did not answer to his name when he was discovered and the white foreman refused to allow his return to the owner who had discovered him. I have no information that Richard Holmes worked on the White House or the Capitol, but we do have information that has been lost to history that many black men and free blacks did, in fact, work on these and other places in the District of Columbia. We know them by their works.

We also know that slaves did every job imaginable, including the most highly skilled jobs. We know their owners were compensated. We know that neither they nor their descendants were.

Let me lay to rest whether anybody feels any confusion about whether to be proud or ashamed that our most revered structures were built by slave labor. Let us not be like the Soviets who revise or deny history. Let us, with this bill, put those questions for these purposes aside, put these emotions aside because on one question there can be no disagreement.

We often have recognized what the slaves achieved and the tributes over and over again to these great buildings, and to the 25 million visitors who come every year to the District of Columbia to see this building among others. It is time finally to recognize the men who helped achieve the place where we work, the place that we love.

I thank my colleagues very much for all they have done on this bill.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any more speakers on my side, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), one of the most distinguished leaders in our House, one of the senior Members of the House and an American who perhaps was most responsible for ensuring that this Nation recognized the contribution of one of its greatest citizens of the world, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentlemen who have participated in bringing this measure forward.

I was very moved by the remarks of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON). This plays right into the book recently written by Randall Robinson called *The Debt* in which he, touring the Capitol with his

wife, found this tremendous sculpture about everybody that had contributed, but there were no depictions of slaves and their contribution.

So all of the dialogue tonight has been very, very important in beginning to recognize and bring forward, as scholars are, as forums are going on in our universities, in which we are bringing up the records of the slaves, of their travels across the waters, the insurance records, and a lot of other factual materials.

So it seems to me that we are moving inextricably into the question of how we recognize and study the question of reparations as may affect them. I could not imagine this conversation just going on tonight without us examining what we do in the preparation of a commission to study the history of slaves and their descendants in terms of their contributions and where we might fit into the picture presently.

So I see this as a tapestry, a very important part of it. I see the hate crimes bill shortly being very important in which we take the subject of the lynching, the hate crimes started back in the 1920s when the civil rights movement, the NAACP began the great rush to federalize the lynching of African Americans. Then, after Dr. King's assassination in 1968, we got the first hate crimes bill; and we have another pending in this body now.

So much of our legislation is moving together. This resolution giving recognition to the contribution of people of color, both free and enslaved, is a very important step forward. I commend all who have contributed toward it.

I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for yielding me this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) has reserved the balance of his time and has the right to close.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time. But I know that, on both sides of the aisle, if they were on the floor, all Members would want to rise in support of this resolution. Every Member would want to recognize the importance of the principle involved in the adoption of this resolution, the recognition of those who have been ignored, forgotten, hidden, in part, perhaps, because of the shame that a society shared for on the one hand saying it believed in freedom and on the other hand enslaving a people because of the color of their skin.

This resolution is important in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, not only to recognize those who participated and labored and who helped build this Capitol, but it is also important, it seems to me, because it reminds us of the contradictions between our principles and our performance.

It heightens our awareness, Mr. Speaker, of the gulf that sometimes ex-

ists between our promises and our practice. I introduced, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS). I remember standing with him on the front of this Capitol and supporting him in his leadership of the necessity to recognize the contributions made by Martin Luther King, Jr. who, in 1963, stood just some thousands of yards from where we stand right now and reminded the Nation in a compelling address that we ought to live out the dream and make reality the promises that we had made.

Our Nation responded. This Congress responded. We passed legislation to try to make reality the promises of the 13th Amendment passed 100 years before. Whether it was in employment or housing or public accommodations, we said that America was not a land in which we ought to discriminate against individuals based upon such arbitrary distinction as color of skin or national origin or religion.

In fact, we are still arguing today about artificial distinctions we make between human beings and whether they ought to be discriminated against, not on what they do to us or laws that they break, but on what they may be that is different from us.

Mr. Speaker, that is why this resolution is important, not only as the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) have so eloquently pointed out, to recognize the contribution of the individuals who helped build this Capitol and, as the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) has pointed out, built so many others, including the White House, Monticello, and Mount Vernon. I can go on in listing the dwellings that we know are dwellings in which democracy saw its genesis and its growth.

This resolution is significant because it also teaches us to be aware daily of the necessity of applying our principles in practice.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, again, this bill recognizes the long-ignored role of African American slaves in building the United States Capitol. Again, in closing, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), I thank the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), ranking member, I thank them for their efforts on behalf of this resolution.

Again, this year we celebrate the bicentennial of the United States Government's arrival here in Washington. Proper recognition for these laborers is long past due.

□ 2000

We often, as Members of Congress, get to drive into the grounds or drive onto these grounds; and at night especially driving onto these grounds we see our Nation's dome, the Nation's Capitol and remind ourselves that this

building that we stand in today is recognized as the symbol of freedom for all the world. This resolution today again recognizes the contribution that slave labor played in building the symbol of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I remind us that, on the Senate side, the Senate version of this bill is sponsored by Senator ABRAHAM from Michigan and Senator LINCOLN from Arkansas. So, on the Senate side, this bill will be known as the Abraham/Lincoln bill. Very fitting.

Again, thanks to my colleagues for this bipartisan support that we have seen in bringing this effort forward and making it happen here this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to respond in part to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), in terms of his supposition that perhaps it was out of shame.

I think I will just tell the gentleman that it was far more fundamental than that, and it was that common physical labor is not a high achievement and that we never, even to this day, recognize the fact that without it we would not have what we have today.

The thing I like most about this, given the discussion, the participants, and the reflection on history, is that one of the fundamentals of democracy is in the inherent belief that an individual is worth something simply because they are alive and that what we are doing here is celebrating the obvious acknowledgment of our shared humanity in the best way we can in reaching back and telling those people, thank you, thank you very much for that basic physical labor that produced the opportunity, as Mr. DAVIS so eloquently indicated, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. HOLMES) indicated, we forget about.

So it is in the shared humanity of our recognition that I think we can all share and appreciate.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 368.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 368.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?